



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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October 18, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and the United States Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Rhonda Thayer-Smith was sentenced to a term of 30 months by the Honorable Joseph F. Bataillon, United States District Judge, following her conviction for two fraudulent schemes against the State of Nebraska. The first scheme involved Thayer-Smith operating a daycare business under the name of G-Baby Daycare. Thayer-Smith submitted forms for meal reimbursement which were then transmitted to the Nebraska Department of Education and ultimately to the United States Department of Agriculture for processing. A State of Nebraska investigation determined that Thayer-Smith submitted numerous forms for meal reimbursement for children who were not actually in her care. Thayer-Smith fraudulently received over \$20,256.09 in meal reimbursements.

The second fraudulent scheme involved Thayer-Smith using the name and social security number of an acquaintance to receive benefits from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for providing healthcare to individuals including her daughter and ex-husband. Thayer-Smith wasn't eligible to receive payment as a care provider because she had previously been convicted of fraud in connection with that program in 1989. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services suffered a loss of \$99,537.18 due Thayer-Smith's conduct. Thayer-Smith was ordered to pay restitution to that agency as well as to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the loss it suffered in connection with Thayer-Smith's daycare operation.

Name of Defendant: Rhonda Thayer-Smith

AKA:

Age: 56

City of residence: Omaha, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Count I-18:287, False, Fictitious, or Fraudulent Claims, imprisonment of not more than 5 years, a fine of \$250,000, 3 years TSR. Count II-42:408(a)(7)(B), False Social Security Statement, imprisonment of not more than 5 years, a fine of \$250,000, 3 years TSR. Count III-18:1028A, Aggravated Identity Theft, imprisonment of not more than 2 years consecutive to Count II, a fine of \$250,000, 1 year TSR.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Omaha, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme:

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: On or about the 2nd day of October, 2006 and on or about the 12th day of February, 2007

Federal Arrest Date: July 9, 2010

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: Information filed on June 11, 2010

Initial Appearance Date: July 9, 2010

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Plead guilty on July 9, 2010

Sentencing Date: October 15, 2010

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: F.A. Gossett III

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Released from Custody

In Continuous Custody Since: N/A

Assigned District Court Judge: Joseph F. Bataillon

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: FDF/hjb